

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 251151Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5693

S E C R E T JIDDA 5822

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, SA, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF JIDDA 5644, JIDDA 5482

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT PRINCE SAUD SAID AUGUST 16 THAT NOTE WAS BEING PREPARED IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH WOULD ACCEPT OUR SUGGESTION CONCERNING PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE JORDAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. WHEN I INQUIRED THREE DAYS AGO OF THE POLIT UNDERSEC (MANSOURI) HOW THE MATTER IS PROGRESSING, HE REPLIED, "IT'S ALL RIGHT. PRINCE FAHD HAS IT." I SAID I WAS NOT PRESSING HIM, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO TIE THINGS UP BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF RAMADAN.

2. MANSOURI TELEPHONED ME THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT "IT'S ALL APPROVED." I ASKED WHETHER MATTER HAD BEEN ACTED ON DURING YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING. HE SAID, "NO, PRINCE FAHD TOOK CARE OF IT HIMSELF. THE CABINET WAS NOT INVOLVED." I THEN ASSUMED WE WOULD BE RECEIVING A NOTE INFORMING US OFFICIALLY THAT OUR SUGGESTION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT. HE ASKED WHY WE WANT A NOTE, ADDING THAT ALL OUR DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN ORAL. I SAID THAT'S WHY I WANT A NOTE IF I CAN GET ONE, OR AT LEAST A LETTER SAYING THAT WE MAY PROCEED ON THE ASSURANCE THAT SUGGESTION I MADE AUGUST 9 HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY APPROVED. I SAID AT THE WASHINGTON END THEY WOULD PROBABLY NEED SOMETHING IN THE WAY OF WRITTEN OFFICIAL ASSURANCE FOR LEGAL REASONS. WITH SOME RELUCTANCE HE AGREED

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TO SEND ME A LETTER INDICATING SAUDI GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE

OF OUR PROPOSAL.

3. THAT IS THE WAY FIVE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR ORDERS ARE
HANDLED OUT HERE. CHARGE IT ALL UP TO PRE-RAMADAN LETHARGY.
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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